

AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application or previous response to office action:

1. (Amended) An actuator unit comprising:

a piezoelectric actuator;

contact pins arranged along the actuator and in conductive connection with the actuator; and

a hollow body having the piezoelectric actuator disposed therein, the hollow body being elastic and biasing the actuator, wherein the hollow body is joined tensionally and/or positively to the upper and lower end of the actuator, and the hollow body being provided with holes which are of a dumb-bell shape and run transversely of the hollow body's axis.

2. (Amended) The actuator unit according to claim 1, wherein the piezoelectric actuator is gripped in its direction of expansion between an upper and a lower cover plate which are tensionally and/or positively joined to the hollow body.

3. (Currently Amended) A hollow body for biasing a piezoelectric actuator, the hollow body being made elastic, wherein ~~the hollow body is provided with holes which are of a dumb-bell shape and run transversely of the hollow body's axis~~ marginal areas exist around the holes and are at least partially compressed.

4. (Amended) The actuator unit according to claim 1, wherein the holes are arranged in rows one above the other, the holes of the rows being laterally offset from one another.

5. (Amended) The actuator unit according to claim 1, wherein the minimum distance between adjacent holes of two rows is one or three times the wall thickness of the hollow body .

6. (Amended) The actuator unit according to claim 1, wherein the holes are distributed uniformly over the circumference of the hollow body.

7. (Amended) The actuator unit according to claim 1, wherein the hollow body is made of spring steel and the holes are punched.

8. (Amended) The actuator unit according to claim 1, wherein the hollow body has at least one weld seam which joins together two abutting edges of the hollow body.

9. (Amended) The actuator unit according to claim 1, wherein the hollow body has two abutment edges which are associated with one another and extend over the entire length of the hollow body.

10. (Amended) The actuator unit according to claim 1, wherein marginal areas around the holes are at least partially compressed.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)

13. (Amended) The hollow body according to claim 3, wherein the holes are arranged in rows one above the other, the holes of the rows being laterally offset from one another.

14. (Amended) The hollow body according to claim 3, wherein the minimum distance between adjacent holes of two rows is one or three times the wall thickness of the hollow body.

15. (Amended) The hollow body according to claim 3, wherein the holes are distributed uniformly over the circumference of the hollow body.

16. (Amended) The hollow body according to claim 3, wherein the hollow body is made of spring steel and the holes are punched.

17. (Amended) The hollow body according to claim 3, wherein the hollow body has at least one weld seam which joins together two abutting edges of the hollow body.

18. (Amended) The hollow body according to claim 3, wherein the hollow body has two abutment edges which are associated with one another and extend over the entire length of the hollow body.

19. (Cancelled)